PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM · LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO · PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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NYPD Murders Deborah Danner

Don't Vote— Organize vs. Racism

BRONX, NY, October 20—"Black cop, white cop, all the same; Racist terror is the name of the game" This chant echoed throughout Pugsley Ave. in the Bronx, as a woman comrade led a group of protestors to the 43rd precinct to protest the racist murder of 66-year-old Deborah Danner. As some reformist leaders of the protest called for "better politicians" and "better" laws, members of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) called for revolution to replace the "whole damn system" with a world without racism and sexism, and that's communism!

Danner was murdered in her home on Tuesday, October 18 by a police sergeant who was responding to a call about a woman "acting in an irrational manner" (CNN, 10/21). Danner had suffered from schizophrenia. When the cops arrived, Danner was in her bedroom, holding a pair of scissors. She was convinced to put them down, and in turn, picked up a bat. This is when the sergeant took Danner's life by shooting her twice in the torso. With such a high-ranking cop being responsible for Danner's murder the commissioner can't use the excuse that this is the mistake of a rookie cop; once again, it proves that the cops were just doing their job which is to terrorize and pacify the working class!

Residents Support Antiracism

PLP joined with a group of about 30 protestors on Thursday evening and marched from the apartment where Danner was murdered to the 43rd precinct. As we left the sidewalks and took over the streets, PLP comrades started leading loud, militant chants. " No justice, no peace, no racist police." We distributed over 50 Challenges. Residents responded with fists in the air. Some people supported us from their apartment windows. A few onlookers joined the march. Four young Black teenagers accompanied us on their bicycles when we encouraged them to join the march. At the precinct there were about 50 protestors present. Constance Malcolm, mother of Ramarley Graham, (an eighteen-year-old Black teen who was killed by the cops in his home in the Bronx in 2012) was present, along with Juanita Young, mother of Malcolm Ferguson (a 23-year-old Black man shot by a plainclothes cop).

Politicians and Cops Part of Racist System

At the protest leaders of the Justice League and Black Lives Matter called for some reforms. One leader suggested that since an election for district attorney (DA) is approaching, we could pressure the new DA to indict this sergeant and send him to jail. Constance Malcolm shouted that the next DA would be just as corrupt. Others shouted, "They are all corrupt!" A minister addressed the crowd, shouting, "I would not be a man if I said that all cops are bad! I could never say that I am anti-cop. I am anti-corruption. I have some good friends here."

To combat the minister's defense of the cops, two comrades spoke with a young woman, making it clear that when we say that the whole system is guilty as hell, we mean all cops serve this profit hungry capitalist system. They all carry out the ruler's racist agenda: to terrorize the working class to maintain their power and profits. These ministers, politicians, and various other reformers have been attending these protest rallies for years. They demanded more Black cops; done. They wanted better "relations" with the cops; the working class got the Community Affairs cops. We've got Black district attorneys, less stop and frisk, and now body cameras. We even got a Black president. The list is endless, but the capitalist system grinds on. It cannot be reformed, or voted away. It has to go and that takes a lifetime commitment to building a revolutionary movement for communism. After our discussion, the woman took a CHALLENGE, and gave us her contact information.

The working Class Shall Rule the Earth!

The sidelining of women in the leadership

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OUR FIGHT

★Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

★ the dictatorship of the working class — communism — can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

★Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

★While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

★Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

★Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

★Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women — sexism — and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

★Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

★Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

★Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Mosul, Aleppo: Flashpoints for Bosses' Oil Wars

The blood-soaked reports and images coming out of Mosul, Iraq, and Aleppo, Syria, make it clear that the working class needs a worldwide communist movement to escape the clutches of mass-murdering imperialist powers. Never-ending battles among small-time capitalists in Syria and Iraq, stateless would-be bosses in the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), and large-scale war-makers like the U.S. and Russia are turning these cities into graveyards for thousands of workers and their children. Only a renewed international communist movement offers an escape from these daily horrors. Progressive Labor Party aims to lead such a movement. We invite anyone filled with outrage, sadness or despair over the savagery and decay in the world today to read CHALLENGE—and join the fight to make capitalism a bad memory and no more.

Middle East Conflict a Quest for Oil

The Middle East has long been a battleground for imperialist powers, dating back to World War I. In the war's aftermath, European powers punished the defeated Ottoman Empire by dividing it into smaller and more easily controlled territories (BBC, 12/14/13): Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and Yemen. All of these modern nations were artificially created by Western imperialist powers to control the vast amounts of cheaply extracted oil discovered in the early 1900s. While contemporary anti-Muslim racism would have us believe that Shia and Sunni have always been fighting, the reality is very different. Before 1916, there was little of the sectarian violence we see today.

The imperialists of today are no less ruthless than those of a century ago. Middle East oil continues to feed their frenzy. The U.S., the dominant power in the region since the fall of the Soviet Union, finds itself increasingly challenged for control. The result is an accelerating death toll that troubles neither Hillary Clinton nor Donald Trump nor Vladimir Putin nor Bashar al-Assad. Millions of refugees driven from their homes into a terrifying unknown; thousands upon thousands of workers and children slaughtered; the Mediterranean Sea choked with the corpses of workers who'd fled imperialist nightmares – for the ruling class and their political stooges, no price in workers' lives is too high.

Aleppo: Workers Sacrificed in Proxy War

In Aleppo, Syria's largest city before the siege that began in 2012, Russia's rulers are openly backing the brutal Assad regime in defiance of the U.S. Their aim is clear: to protect their naval base at Tartus, Russia's only access to the Mediterranean Sea. On October 14, Russia and Syria ratified a treaty to guarantee Russia permanent access to Khmeimim Air Base, near the Mediterranean port, and to project military force throughout the Middle East and Europe. The sole Russian aircraft carrier, the Admiral Kuznetsov, is currently steaming toward the Syrian coast (New York Times, 10/21). When the Kremlin issues a statement that "the entire territory of Syria must be liberated" (10/22) from U.S.-backed Syrian "rebels," it is delivering a message to its imperialist rivals in the U.S. and Europe.

Meanwhile, U.S.-backed forces are in disarray. So-called "moderate" Syrian fighters are led by jihadist groups like Jabhat Fateh al-Sham and Jabhat al-Nusra (Reuters, 9/29), even though the U.S. has classified the latter group as a terrorist organization. Both groups have targeted civilians with indiscriminate bombing and torture. The most effective U.S.-aligned fighting force in Syria is the Kurdish military –which is bombed daily by the military of Turkey, another ostensible U.S. ally. While the U.S. protests Syrian and Russian aggression and war crimes, the European Union has failed to agree on any repercussions against Russia (The Guardian, 10/20).

Mosul: Chickens Home to Roost

Just over 300 miles to the east of Aleppo is Mosul, Iraq, an ongoing example of the willingness of U.S. bosses to create a monster and unleash it on the world. The 2003 overthrow of Saddam Hussein and the subsequent U.S. occupation of Iraq were designed to create a government friendly to the needs of U.S. oil companies. But the power vacuum created by Hussein's overthrow, along with the purging of the Iraqi military leadership, opened the field to al-Qaeda in Iraq, which joined with groups in Syria in to become ISIS. By 2014, after splitting from al-Qaeda and declaring an independent caliphate, ISIS had become a powerful fighting force across the Middle East and North Africa. Early on, the U.S. rulers were willing to look the other way or even provide arms and funding. A 2012 intelligence report identifies ISIS as "one of the major forces driving the insurgency in Syria" and that "western countries, the Gulf States and Turkey" were supporting the opposition's efforts to take control of eastern Syria (The Guardian 6/3/2015).

Soon, however, ISIS turned on its creator and targeted U.S. interests in Iraq. Only when U.S. oil revenues in Kirkuk, Tikrit and Mosul were at stake did the U.S. bosses make ISIS's brutality an issue. At present, the U.S. has approximately 6,000 U.S. troops in Iraq; it's busy killing both its enemies and helpless civil-

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With friends like these...

For the United States ruling class, alliances aren't what they used to be:

Turkey has been a U.S. ally since joining NATO in 1952. Yet their forces are bombing the Kurds, the only effective pro-U.S. fighters in Syria and Iraq. Meanwhile, Turkish government leaders recently met with Russian President Vladimir Putin to revive a deal with Gazprom, the Russian state-owned oil company, and build the "Turkish Stream," a pipeline under the Black Sea to Turkey. This would allow Russian oil to bypass U.S. allies in Ukraine and Eastern Europe (NYT, 10/10).

On October 19, Rodrigo Duterte, the vigilante president of the Philippines, announced it was "time to say goodbye" to the U.S. during a visit to China, the U.S. bosses' most powerful imperialist rival (japantimes.co.jp, 10/20). Duterte has threatened to cancel the Philippines' 65-year-old Mutual Defense Treaty with the U.S., and announced that their upcoming joint military exercises will be the last (NYT 10/18). This open betrayal of the United States "feeds fears that the right mix of intimidation and inducements could influence other partners to distance themselves from Washington" (Center for Strategic and International Studies).

Israel continues to disregard U.S. wishes by condoning the expansion of settlements in the West Bank and persisting in antagonizing Iran. The U.S. bosses are attempting to de-escalate their long-standing conflict with Iran as a strategic move to retrench and prepare for an inevitable global war.

Saudi Arabia, home to the Middle East's largest oil reserves, continues its murderous bombing campaign in Yemen and funds ISIS (independent.co.uk, 10/14).

Protesters Decry State Murder of Jessica Williams

From Baltimore and Ferguson to Ayotzinapa, to Egypt, Palestine and everywhere workers are fighting against state terror
Black, Latino, Arab, Asian, White
Unite
Let's Smash th Racist, Capitalist Police State!
Fight, or Communism!
Progressive Labor Party
K K K POLICE
WARNING

BAY AREA, October 22—Workers and students from Progressive Labor Party and friends demonstrated against the racist and sexist murder of Jessica Williams, a Black mother of five. Sergeant Justin Erb killed Jessica on a Thursday, May 21 this year in Bayview, the only Black neighborhood in San Francisco.

The police try to justify her murder by saying she was driving a stolen car. This is similar to the racist, sexist murders of Shantel Davis (June 2012) in Brooklyn, New York. The police try to paint these Black women workers as criminals in order to justify their murders. We refuse to accept this! None of these women deserved to die!

Jessica's murderer Sergent Erb has a history of terrorizing the working class. One such complaint includes lying to obtain a search warrant that lead to the arrest of an innocent person, complete trashing of the young person's house (48Hills, 7/13). The place was so badly damaged, the Housing Authority had to relocate the family to another apartment. The only "crime" the cops, with their guns drawn, found was a father caring for an infant. Erb was exonerated.

In the Bay Area, these racist murders help real estate bosses make more money. As San Francisco (the profit trinity of banks, real estate bosses, and government sanctions) builds property for greater profit, the police ramp up terrorize against Black and Latin workers to drive them out. The Black population has dwindled down to only 3 percent (Counterpunch, 1/11).

Mario Woods (20 bullet wounds), Alex Nieto (15 bullet wounds), and Jessica Williams are three more names added to the list of people murdered here. They were executed in the street with no indictment, no trial, not even words exchanged between the police and the victim.

Workers Indict Capitalism

Workers joined the rally, raised their fists, joined in chants, thanking us for keeping the fight going. One woman asked for a no-racism button and asked if she could give out CHALLENGE at her senior center. Another woman wanted a copy of our "KKKop Wanted for Racist Murder" poster (see photo). Yet another woman said, "What can I do to help this rally?" and she took leaflets to distribute. Some made connections between the system, racism, and war. It was a reminder that the working class has so much to teach us.

PLP raised the idea that the whole system, not just one cop, is guilty of racism. It's the whole damn system! One worker said, "I don't care what color they are! They're all [bad]!"

WANTED
FOR RACIST MURDER
SFPD SGT. JUSTIN ERB MURDERED 29 YR-OLD JESSICA NELSON WILLIAMS, A PREGNANT MOTHER OF FIVE.
PROCEED WITH CAUTION. ERB IS ARMED AND SHOOTS TO KILL. ERB RUNS WITH THE NOTORIOUSLY RACIST, SEXIST AND VIOLENT GANG CALLED THE SFPD. ORGANIZE FRIENDS, FAMILY, CO-WORKERS AND STUDENTS TO RALLY, DEMONSTRATE, TO TAKE DOWN THE SFPD GANG.

Another worker responded to us saying, "Of course they murder. The culture of the police is 'shoot to kill' Black people."

It was clear that police serve and protect the system that feeds off of the oppression and exploitation of the working class.

Justifying Murder with Psychobabble

When asked if they thought elections could fix the system, one worker said that all politicians are messed up and serve people with money. He's right! These racist murders are supported by Obama and his Department of inJustice (DOJ). The DOJ has paid psychologist William J. Lewinski to train officers to shoot by instinct and testify at their trials when they murder workers. Lewinski has used phony science to justify why officers should "shoot first, ask questions later." His studies are not published in science journals and the editor the American Journal of Psychology said his studies "lacked basic elements of legitimate research…and drew conclusions that were unsupported by the data" (NYT, 8/1/2015). Obama and his administration don't care about Black and Latin workers any more than the previous presidents Bill Clinton or George Bush did.

Whether Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton becomes president, racism will still be the order of the day. Clinton is the greater danger for the working class, as proven by her long history of starving, maiming, bombing working class families all over the world (see Elections Supplement).

Multiracial Unity

So what can we do about racist terror? One worker told us, "Black people and white people gotta get together and fight."

That's what Progressive Labor Party is doing all around the world. Our demonstrators included men, women, Black, white, Asian, and Latin workers from ages 7 to 70! The action was organized and led by three young women. This is just one rally out of many we're planning in the future. We won't stop fighting until we've gotten justice for Jessica by getting rid of capitalism.✪

Workers Seize Control of DA's Townhall

LOS ANGELES, October 17—What was supposed to be a peaceful, orchestrated town hall meeting with the Black District Attorney of Los Angeles, Jackie Lacey, was quickly taken over by hundreds of angry multiracial protestors, with chants that shook the room. "Shut it down, shut it down!" This action emphasized the vital importance of fighting racism in any reform struggle and several friends moved closer to the revolutionary communist ideas of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP). As the Ferguson rebels have said, "It's the whole damn system."

Los Angeles boasts the most diverse police department in the country while also leading the nation with the most racist murders by cops! Since 2000, nearly 1,000 people have been killed in LA County and since 2004 over 2,000 people have been killed in six Southern California counties. Even with all of this bloodshed, only one cop has ever been indicted and he was later acquitted.

The fight against racist police murders has been the main struggle PLP has waged in the Unitarian church over the last two years since the antiracist rebellion in Ferguson. Locally, the focus was mainly on the murders of Ezell Ford and Brendon Glenn. Due to the struggle by a comrade, a group of church members have broadened this to make racist police terror in general the focus of our call to action. It was in this vein that 16 Party members and friends from our church attended the town hall meeting to confront the district attorney.

Workers Frighten Racist DA

Scripted questions were presented to attendees as they entered the building. Within the first two minutes of the start time, before DA Lacey could walk up the hallway to the stage, a participant jumped to the microphone calling the whole meeting a sham. It was suggested that we take over the meeting and that the community run the meeting instead of the DA.

Cheers rang through the hall for this suggestion. DA Lacey hid behind security as Lisa Simpson, the mother of murdered 18-year-old Richard Risher Jr., took the stage. Ms. Simpson charged the DA and her goons with murder and demanded a response from Lacey. The DA cowered in fear and could only claim to not know about the case, but promised to call Ms. Simpson after the event. Others spoke about how they were wrongly incarcerated, including one man incarcerated for 29 years for a crime he didn't commit. A comrade spoke on the systematic nature of the police state, compared mass incarceration to slavery, and called out DA Lacey as complicit.

Speaker after speaker took aim at Lacey and the whole racist system. Participants were not fooled by the fact that DA Lacey is Black; this did nothing to quell the anger and hatred directed at her role as part of the system. It was really clear how the fight against racism unleashes the potential for workers' power. We made several contacts who want to join the struggle. Friends in our church want to be more active. Others are moving closer to the Party. The struggle continues.✪

West Wednesdays

Letters to Lynch Campaign Ignites More Fighters

BALTIMORE, October 19—Powerful "West Wednesday" rallies continue to demand justice for Tyrone West and for all working-class victims of systematic capitalist police terror. Such rallies have been held every single week since the vicious, racist police murder of Tyrone in July 2013. Among fighters who participate in the weekly West Wednesday rallies, there is a growing understanding, due to PLP's continual presence and influence, that the root of the problem is the system of capitalism.

Black Bosses, Enemy of Workers

The police—along with City State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby and Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, both Black women and both of whom have refused to prosecute the killer cops that took Tyrone's life—are part of capitalist state power. Along with the military, courts, prisons and federal government, this state power is, in reality, an apparatus that exists for the purpose of violently suppressing the working class. And, since Black workers are the most oppressed and the boldest in fighting back against injustice, state power terrorizes Black workers and students most violently of all.

Recently, Tyrone's family has asked that many of us send letters to the national Attorney General, Loretta Lynch (fitting name) – another Black woman, who heads the Department of Justice (DOJ) – demanding that the case be reopened, and that the guilty cops be prosecuted and incarcerated.

But the national Department of Justice (DOJ), as part of that state apparatus, is guilty, on a nationwide level, of mass incarceration of largely (but not only) Black workers. Activists that regularly participate in West Wednesday know that Loretta Lynch will likely ignore our demand to prosecute Tyrone's murderers. Nevertheless, as Tyrone's family has requested, we're giving the effort our best shot! If Lynch fails to respond, it will only further illustrate the way the entire capitalist system is stacked against the working class.

Student's Uncle Lynched by KKKops

One teacher-fighter had discussions with her sixth-grade students about the death of Tyrone West, in preparation for letter-writing. During one of those discussions, it came out that a member of her class is a nephew of Anthony Anderson who, like Tyrone, was also murdered by Baltimore cops, both while unarmed. The cops deliberately held Anthony upside down and dropped him on his head, killing him right in front of his mother! Even the Medical Examiner's office labeled Anthony's death a homicide (by the police), but the cops were never charged, and those racist killers remain on the force. During the class discussion Anthony's nephew broke down in tears, causing also the teacher to cry in front of her class.

Students at Johns Hopkins University aim to get 300 signatures on a letter to Loretta Lynch. Other fighters, including a PL'er, have begun canvassing door to door in Sandtown/Winchester, the neighborhood where Freddie Gray was killed by the police, giving all 3,000 residents an opportunity to sign one of the letters. After just two days, there has been a mighty response.

No Such Thing as a Good Cop

Meanwhile, the federal Department of Justice, City officials, and the Police Department are negotiating an agreement, while admitting no past guilt, pretending that the cops are now going to all be "Officer Friendly."

Last August a 163-page DOJ report admitted that the Baltimore Police Department is guilty of widespread racism, brutality, and general disregard for women complaining of sexual abuse. The last five pages argue that the solution is "community policing." They claim that racism, brutality and sexism on the part of police will thus be rectified. They claim that now cops will instead attend neighborhood meetings and help solve problems.

However, past experience shows that "community policing," at best, is a way for the police to gather intelligence on target communities, even in the absence of any crime. They then use this intelligence to disrupt activities of those they fear might pose a threat to the capitalist order.

No matter how long it takes, Progressive Labor Party (PLP) intends to lead the working class to smash the bosses' cops and courts. We will establish a worker-led communist society worthy of Tyrone, Anthony, and the other countless victims of police murder—Black, white, and all other workers. Join us.✪

Fight Displacement of Working Class Families

NEW YORK CIY, October 11—A local rally denounced the racist displacement of working-class families.

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members are active in a community organization that is confronting evictions and dislocation. Members of the community organization were frustrated and angry. A community coalition led by evangelical pastors organized a march supposedly against gentrification. In reality the purpose of the march was to win the community to religion and to their churches. They actually discouraged any kind of fightback, as a sound truck blared out religious music and people distributed church cards.

They boldly chanted, "Tenants, yes. Evictions, no," and distributed 800 flyers calling on tenants to fight back. The contradiction was obvious to all. The working class in the area grabbed the PLP flyers, saying, "This is what we need."

The financial system and the real estate industry, which are directly tied to the New York City government, are attacking working-class neighborhoods across the city. The result is dislocation of largely Black and Latin tenants from the South Bronx, Harlem, East New York, Bushwick and elsewhere.

two PLP comrades distributed 160 copies of the revolutionary communist newspaper, CHALLENGE. Some of the Party's friends told a comrade that the "real political march" they had gone to was PLP's May Day march last spring. When the pastors stopped at the local precinct to pray for the police a comrade shouted, "We should be fighting police violence and supporting the families of the two black men killed by police in Oklahoma and North Carolina." People cheered.

The rulers' strategy, based on profiteering and racism, is to build "mixed income neighborhoods" where working-class families are reduced to 10 percent low income, 30 percent medium income and the rest high income. In some new rezoned buildings the minimum income to even apply for a new apartment is $48,000 a year, even though more than 30 percent of the current residents earn $25,000 and less.

The rulers want to break up long-term Black and Latin neighborhoods to divide the working class. They pack in three or four mainly white students into small "renovated" apartments, while middle income families end up paying huge rents between $2,500 and $3,500 a month. We need to unite and fight back!

A World without Landlords

PLP members are committed to continue our work in the community organization. We are exposing capitalism, racism and calling for sharper struggle. We expose the dead end of reform struggle led by the politicians. We call for an egalitarian communist society where the working class will organize housing for our class; no landlords! As we get to know people we are building our PLP study group and expanding readers and networks of CHALLENGE distributors, who also give donations to support our paper. The working class is open to the ideas in CHALLENGE and slowly and steadily we are building a solid group of friends and supporters. Our friends have many questions about the successes and failures of the old communist movement. As the capitalist ruling class is trying to bury us in racism, sexism and anti-communism, PLP is boldly answering workers' questions and raising working class consciousness as we fight back. Our Party has confidence in the working class because our class is smart and strong. What we do now counts on the long road to communist revolution and workers' liberation.✪

Haiti

After Hurricane, Rise in Cholera

The cholera epidemic is spreading in Haiti following the devastation wrought by Hurricane Matthew. While the hurricane was a natural disaster, the cholera is not. It is a disaster caused by capitalist profit and the United Nations. Pharmaceutical companies were "unable" to produce enough vaccine and still make a profit. So they didn't. Also not profitable were the building of clean water and sanitation systems to prevent the epidemic. So they weren't built.

Six years later "… cholera is stalking the areas gutted by the hurricane, …where clean water was already hard to find, long before the storm...Without clean water or disinfectant, the people are defenseless...The toll from cholera is unknowable" (NYT, 10/15).

Despite overwhelming scientific evidence and international outrage, it was not until this past summer that the UN admitted that its troops (MINUSTAH) brought cholera to Haiti in the wake of the 2010 earthquake. It is a crime against humanity that neither the UN nor its public health arm, the World Health Organization (WHO), have taken decisive action for six years to bring relief to Haitian workers suffering and dying from this very treatable disease. Since 2010, there have been over 800,000 cases and over 10,000 deaths. Haiti now has one of the highest rates of cholera infection in the world. Before the hurricane, the WHO was reporting 770 new cases of cholera each week and now their website is reporting an even faster increase.

From 1794 to 1804 the enslaved people of Haiti rose up and succeeded in smashing the chains of slavery, thereby becoming the beacon of hope for oppressed people around the world. Ever since then, the imperialist nations have acted to punish them. The occupation of Haiti by the U.S. from 1915–1934 was particularly brutal and racist, putting the banks into receivership to the Rockefeller (now) Citibank and changing the Constitution to allow foreign ownership of property, while killing, raping, and instituting forced labor.

After the workers rose up once again to overthrow the Duvalier puppet regimes in 1986 that the U.S. had installed and supported, the imperialist powers initiated the modern era of the UN occupation. The MINUSTAH "peacekeepers" have unleashed their own terror on the Haitian working class, ensuring continued racist exploitation, and further plundering of the island's natural resources.

Healthcare, a Profit Industry

Since 2010, the global health community demanded that the UN/WHO initiate a vaccination program in Haiti. The big pharmaceutical manufacturers were unwilling to comply. That it was not profitable to produce the vaccine stands in sharp contrast to a communist society that will exist explicitly to serve working people. Seeking profit will be a relic of the past. In its drive to serve the needs of the working class and our allies, a worker-led communist world will use science and technology to eradicate disease and its causes.

The demand to vaccinate was a small part of the more comprehensive and unfulfilled demand that the UN build adequate healthcare treatment facilities throughout the country, and most critically, install a nationwide clean water and sewage system. This would be the only effective means to stop the cholera epidemic.

Following the latest devastation by Hurricane Matthew, the WHO announced it would send 1 million vaccines to Haiti. This is much too little, much too late. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

Cholera vaccines...are of limited usefulness. In field trials conducted in areas with endemic cholera, vaccines have been only about 50% effective in reducing the incidence of clinical illness for 3–6 months. They do not prevent transmission of infection.

Depending on the type of vaccine used, any protection from infection, in addition to lasting only three-six months, would not be realized for 2–3 weeks. Inevitably, many more would contract the disease and die before vaccines were actually administered. Even those who get the vaccine will be exposed to risk of infection when the immunity wears off.

In the words of a man from Port Salut, desperately trying to pitch in and help feed and shelter the surviving members of his neighbor's family, "If we survive, they will survive. If we have only one loaf of bread to eat, we will share it with them" (NYT 10/8).

PLP believes this to be the inherent communist thinking that many working class brothers and sisters aspire to around the world. It is in this spirit that we are building one mass international party that will eventually smash this global capitalist system and break the chains that bind us, once and for all. Join us.✪

LETTER

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Ayotizanapa at 5K Race, Racists at Union Square

My wife Billy and I joined some comrades for a five-kilometer race in the cold this past Sunday. At the race was a man holding up a photo of his son, who turned out to be one of the 43 Ayotzinapa students disappeared by the Mexican government two years ago. The family runs nearly ever race in the city to raise consciousness of this state terror. We offered our support and wanted to know when their next race was!

Our team applauded everyone during the award announcements. Our multiracial, multi-generational group was a big hit; the announcer recognized our team spirit, and we changed the crowd's anticipating mood into one of cheer and celebration. For us, it was the fun of running together was primary over winning awards. But turns out—we had two winners in our team, one of whom was a veteran comrade. She won first place in her age division!

Afterwards, we celebrated with waffles! It was there we decided to run the Turkey Trot, the annual five-mile race on Thanksgiving, the holiday to that essentially celebrates the imperialist genocide of the indigenous upon which this country was founded. The winners get these supposedly famous pies. We joked about how we would run with forks in one hand and an antiracist banner in the other—ready to eat the winning pie, and ready to fight racism. After breakfast, our veteran comrade told us she would pay for the food. "Not many people know this," she winked. "But I am a communist." We all laughed, she was operating under the maxim, "each according to their means and each according to their need."

On our way home, Billy and I decided to make a stop at Union Square for Kabocha, a Japanese pumpkin unavailable in our neighborhood. We were surprised by what we saw. It was none other than a Donald Trump flag waving in the air by three people.

Billy and I poured water on the chalk writing on the pavement: "Donald Trump for president 2016." A woman nearby applauded us for wiping it away. My wife and I led a chant, "how do you spell racist? TRUMP!" and, "how do you spell sexist? TRUMP!"

A young person on the steps said to us, "What about free speech? You don't make sense. Don't you have a brain?"

Billy retorted, "no free speech for racists!"

Then I told him, "Racism kills, and if you aren't serious about fighting racism than you don't care about Black lives, so you need to shut up!" A Black man who supported us earlier stood beside us with his fist up. Some white women told us we did good job. "We don't need Clinton. Trump along all the other politicians is the problem." People didn't say anything, but they listened.

When Billy and I got back on the train, we were still angry with those open Trump supporters. Also, we were angry by the women giving us pats on the back. We don't need allies telling us good job from a far, but comrades in the struggle with us. I am proud of us for doing what some are afraid to do. Looking back, I know we encouraged others to take a stand. The crowd drew near us—we set an example of what two people could do instead of voting; they can organize and fight back! Moving one small step towards a communist world!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Elections: Rising Fascism

Continued from page 8

The next war is on the horizon. While the U.S bosses were busy slaughtering workers in the Middle East, the Chinese bosses were moving into the U.S. stronghold of Latin America, investing in Africa, and building an anti-U.S. alliance with the Philippines bosses and others. At the same time, they are building island military bases in the South China Sea, daring the U.S. to stop their military build-up.

The Russian bosses have also made big gains at the expense of the U.S. bosses, becoming a military player in the Middle East. Today, the U.S. and Russian rulers are in a devastating proxy war in Syria that threatens to escalate into open confrontation. Already 400,000 people have died in that civil war, started by the Obama and then-Secretary of State, Clinton. As the capitalists from Washington to Beijing to Moscow slide towards another world war, Clinton is being charged by U.S. bosses to win the U.S. working class to this death match.

Fascism Attacks Workers, Disciplines Capitalists

As imperialist rivalries sharpen and the threat of war increases, imposing fascism is central to the bosses' plan to win the working class to imperialist war. Fascism means the rulers mobilize the entire society for the war effort, bringing their own class into line as relatively smaller capitalists are sacrificed and the big ones use every means available to protect their profits. Second, it means increasing racist and sexist attacks on the working class to terrorize them into submission, all while being downplayed in the bosses' media.

The U.S. bosses are turning to the fascist state capitalism of their Chinese and Russian competitors.

Compared to the U.S., the direct control by the Chinese bosses' state over all aspects of society gives them more ability to suppress local capitalists who don't cooperate.

Headlined "China's disappearing billionaires," CNBC (2/1/2016) reported, "Though it has received far less attention, another more ominous sign of trouble is the "disappearance" of senior executives from at least 34 Chinese companies over the last year."

The Chinese bosses also assert more direct control over news outlets then the U.S. bosses, who are now moving towards their own version of state media. Ruling class politicians that hesitate to fall in line with the main wing of the bosses, like Paul Ryan, are hammered by the bosses' media into submission until they do. Meanwhile, the mass flooding in Louisiana and days of antiracist rebellions in Milwaukee this summer were mostly ignored, with capitalist media attention fixated on the Olympics.

Rulers Attempts at Total Control Bring Their Own Chaos

From the U.S. to China, when capitalists attempt to assert greater control, the inner contradictions of capitalism create more volatility – and revolutionary opportunities. In spite of the U.S. rulers' all-out efforts to anoint Clinton, millions of young people refuse to support her or any candidate. The antiracist rebellions of Black workers in Baton Rouge, Raleigh and Milwaukee against racist police terror show us the terrified and weak U.S. bosses are desperate to avoid another Ferguson or Baltimore.

This desperation is both a danger and an opportunity for the working class.

We should have no illusions that anything will dissuade the bosses from pursuing more fascism. The U.S. bosses allowed a passenger ship, the Lusitania, get sunk by German submarines to win U.S. workers to fight World War I, an imperialist bloodbath that ended in the world's first workers' state, the Soviet Union. A resurgent German ruling class burnt down their own parliament, the Reichstag, to usher in the Nazis and begin World War II—a war communists led the resistance to and ended in workers seizing power in China in 1949. Capitalists will do anything to keep power and win workers to die for it. As world war becomes more of an imminent possibility, the more they'll try.

The working class has history on its side, and a choice to make: of following the capitalist death march towards devastation, or joining the Progressive Labor Party, building a revolutionary movement for communism and smashing this capitalist system once and for all.✪

Capitalism Killed Deborah Danner

Continued from page 1

was evident in this protest. . Constance Malcolm, certainly, should have been asked to speak. This was juxtaposed by PLP's multiracial leadership of women, and men. The militant, antiracist and antisexist voices of working class women should not be silenced. It weakens our class. But it was encouraging to see that the working class is not falling for the idea that all we need are "better politicians." The Ferguson anti-racist rebels were absolutely correct when they said the problem was the "whole damn system." Join the Progressive Labor Party as we organize a revolutionary movement for communism, an egalitarian system without racism or sexism. Fight for Communism!✪

Mosul, Aleppo: Flashpoints of Wars

Continued from page 2

ians in bombing raids (Foreign Policy, 9/29). With disgusting cynicism, the U.S. plan appears to be to allow ISIS forces to leave Mosul to the west and enter Syria (BBC, 10/4), which would increase the pressure on Assad and his Russian-backed forces. In the process, many more civilians are certain to be sacrificed for the U.S. rulers' profit system.

Workers in Iraq and Syria—workers anywhere—have absolutely no stake in these fights among imperialist war criminals. ISIS is a brutal small terrorist; the U.S. is a vicious big terrorist. While the Syrian and Russian militaries bomb civilians in Aleppo, the U.S. military and its allies do the same. The international working class is stalked by enemies on all sides. No boss, politician, military or religious leader has our class's interest at heart. No imperialist will hesitate to spend workers' lives in pursuit of profit. We have nothing to gain by supporting any ruling class. We have only one way out of this madness: communist revolution.✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

The hidden cost of U.S. racism

New Yorker, 10/10 — …Americans'….racial wealth divide …is enormous, and, fifty years after the civil-rights movement, the gap is growing….

…White households own, on average, seven times as much wealth as African-American households (and six times as much as Latino ones). The Forbes 100 billionaires are collectively as rich as all black Americans combined. At current growth rates, it would take black Americans 228 years to have as much wealth as white Americans today.

…The reasons are clear: the unemployment rate among black Americans is roughly twice that of whites, and black people earn, on average, between 12 and 22 per cent less than white people with similar educational experience. But the wealth gap…is much bigger than the income gap, thanks to a toxic combination of institutionalized discrimination, persistent racism and policies that amplify inequality….Thomas Shapiro. A sociologist at Brandeis [reported] "History and legacy created the racial gap. Policies have maintained it." Together they contribute to…"the hidden cost of being African-American."

…Beginning in the New Deal and on into the postwar years, the federal government invested heavily… [in] homes and…schools….but black Americans received little of this assistance. Redlining by banks and by government agencies prevented black families from buying homes in white neighborhoods;…just two percent of [federal]… loans went to families of color. G.I. Bill benefits went disproportionately to white veterans. Black agricultural and domestic workers were excluded from Social Security until the fifties….

…A 2013 study…found that for white families every dollar increase in income yields an increase of $5.19 in wealth; for black households the figure is just 69¢….

Shapiro has found that housing segregation costs black families tens of thousands in home equity.

…Tax deductions….cost the government…130 billion dollars a year….more than 70 percent…goes to the richest 20 percent of Americans. Money that could fund affordable housing, income subsidies and allowances for first-time homeowners instead just helps rich people pay for their houses.

UN's 'answer' to sexist discrimination: Wonder Woman!

NYT, 10/13 — The United Nations….to promote women and girls…is picking a cartoon character as its mascot: Wonder Woman….as an honorary ambassador for "the empowerment of women and girls…."

Too bad Wonder Woman will not actually traipse through the halls of the United Nations headquarters. If she did she would have to vanquish a few problems, like peacekeepers who sexually abuse civilians and major military powers that bomb schools.

The 'new' South Africa? thousands face evictions

GW, 10/14 — Diana Pholoolo and a dozen elderly women from 54 Soper Road…beat the municipal cleaners to the detritus left by revelers in South Africa's sprawling commercial capital.

…The 100 residents of the burned-out building where Pholoolo, 58, has lived…for nearly 20 years….race to the broken bottles left outside the bars and restaurants….sold by the kilo for recycling….It's not easy at my age, but it's all I've got," Pholoolo says.

…The residents of 54 Soper Road….rest in overcrowded, windowless rooms….There is no gas, electricity or sanitation. Water comes from a single standpipe. Children play in the rubbish-strewn yard.

"Nothing has changed here for years," says Mandla Kayise, 50….An eviction notice has been served so soon he, Pholoolo and others will be gone….

…Ahead of South Africa hosting the 2010 World Cup…developers began buying up the "hijacked" buildings and evicting squatters….

…Emptying occupied buildings…has involved violence….directed both at South African citizens…and…migrants who…flow in from poorer…neighboring countries and beyond.

Now only 100 or so illegally occupied buildings remain…["housing"] about 60,000 people….

Eviction would mean ruin for the residents of 54 Soper Road. They say the city council has told them there is no money to re-house them locally.

Black workers 11times more likely to be arrested for petty offenses

NYT, 10/13 — …A new study…by the American Civil Liberties Union….highlights the disparate treatment African-Americans often receive in the [U.S.] criminal justice system, including disproportionate numbers…sent to jail when… unable to pay court-imposed fees, or stopped by the police during traffic stops or while riding bicycles…. [and] are arrested more often than whites…for drug possession…because of…police practices….

…Loitering, jaywalking, or smoking marijuana — can lead to an arrest…."It is selective enforcement….You have…drug use inside elite college dorms, but you don't see the police busting through doors," said [the]…director of the Justice Program at New York University….

The report…found that while whites are more likely than blacks to use illicit drugs…black adults were more than two-and-a-half times as likely to be arrested.

In…marijuana possession, black adults were more than four times as likely to be arrested as white adults….

In Iowa, Montana and Vermont — places with relatively small populations of African-Americans — blacks were more than six times as likely to be arrested on drug possession charges than whites.

In Manhattan,…African-Americans are nearly 11 times as likely as whites to be arrested on drug possession.

MORE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT WWW.PLP.ORG

U.S. Elections

GROWING FASCISM & WAR

"The oppressed are allowed once every few years to decide which particular representatives of the oppressing class shall represent and repress them."
— Karl Marx
FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM
PLP
LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO
#DONTVOTEREVOLT

The capitalist class around the world is sliding towards wider war and the various national bosses are moving towards more fascism amid growing volatility. This is the true nature of capitalism. Liberal democracy is a mask that the bosses remove when it is "inconvenient". They then use their state apparatus, the politicians, media, police and military to increasingly rule with the iron fist of fascism creating further chaos as bosses fight each other and attack the working class

This election has seen an unprecedented effort by the ruling class to use the state to elect Hillary Clinton.

The building up of the openly racist and sexist Nazi Trump by the liberal press in the primaries was meant to get an opponent that would scare the working class towards Clinton.

"In this scenario, we don't want to marginalize the candidates, but make them [Cruz, Trump and Carson] more 'Pied Piper' candidates who actually represent the mainstream Republican Party.

We need to be elevating the Pied Piper candidates so that they are leaders of the pack and tell the press to [take] them seriously." (email from Clinton campaign to DNC, dated 4/7/2015. Reprinted in Counterpunch, 10/11/2016)

Trump became the Republican candidate the main wing ruling class ultimately settled on out of fear that Clinton could lose to Cruz and thus strengthen the relatively smaller Koch-led "Tea Party" bosses.

Black, Women Workers refused War

One main reason the rulers want Clinton is to win Black and women workers to fight the bosses wars. The last 15 years of a two front war in the Middle East exposed the limits of the U.S. military. As combat ramped up the military was unable to recruit enough soldiers. A key factor was that the numbers of Black and women workers in the military dropped drastically:

"reflecting a lack of support among African Americans for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan…. Since fiscal 2000, when African Americans made up 23.5 percent of Army recruits, their numbers have fallen steadily to less than 14 percent in [2005]… A similar trend has reduced the number of female Army recruits from 22 percent in 2000 to about 17 percent." (Washington Post 3/9/05)

This predominantly white working class male military was soon worn down, and lost both wars.

"It's probably accurate to say that in the course of one disappointment or disaster after another from Afghanistan to Libya, Somalia to Iraq, Yemen to Pakistan, the US military never actually lost an encounter on the battlefield. But nowhere was it truly triumphant on the battlefield either, not in a way that turned out to mean anything." (The Nation, 2/8/2016)

The refusal of so many Black and women soldiers to refuse to kill workers in the Middle East points to the greatest hope for the working class. The only way to get off the spiral of capitalist war and fascism is to build a revolutionary communist movement of workers and students to smash capitalism and build a communist society led by the working class. Workers are right to be scared of the mass racism of Trump - but the seemingly lesser evil of Clinton is a suicidal path for us to follow - a path leading to even bigger imperialist wars.

Clinton Leads the Way to Next War

Continued on page 6

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